

Transportation Funding

Background Materials
K-12 Advisory Committee
October 19, 2005

Transportation Laws

- Chapter 28A.160 RCW
 - Program is part of basic education
 - State allocates the funds and local school boards are responsible for how the transportation program is operated in their school district.
 - Determine which students are transported.
 - Determine school bus routes.

Transportation Laws

- School districts may either:
 - Contract for services.
 - Maintain their own fleet of buses and hire their own drivers.
- Laws also govern limited use of buses in emergencies and use of buses by the elderly, for interscholastic activities, by parents and community members, and for private school students for a fee.

Transportation System

- Number of students transported per day: 483,000
- Number of miles per year: 90 million
- Number of buses in fleet: 9,615
- Total state transportation budgeted in 2005-07 biennium: \$491 Million

Transportation Funding

- Operations Allocation
 - Cost per weighted mile is set by Legislature based on cost of salaries/benefits/non-employee costs: \$42.21 per weighted mile in 2005-06.
 - Distance, based on radius mile from bus stop to school of enrollment (1 to 17 miles).
 - Distance weighting factors to take into account geography, non-radius roads, etc.
 - Ridership, determined by Fall student count of 5 consecutive days.

Transportation Funding

- Operations Allocation *continued*
 - Minimum Load Factor
 - Designed to fund school districts unable to fully load school buses (usually small rural districts)
 - Generates additional money based on the lower average student load per bus
 - Some large urban districts generate minimum load money due to school choice considerations

Transportation Funding

- K-5 Safe Walking Allocation
 - K-5 Funding: based on number of students in grades K - 5 living within one radius mile of school of enrollment.
 - K-5 funding can be used for:
 - Transportation within 1 radius mile (any age)
 - Walkway improvements
 - Adult crossing guards

Transportation Formula

2005-06 School Year

1. $\$42.21 \times \text{Ridership} \times \text{Miles}$, with distance weighting factor
 2. Plus $\$42.21 \times \text{minimum load factors}$
 3. Plus K-5 funding
- = District allocation for transportation operating costs.

Transportation Funding

Example: Olympia School District
(2004-05 School Year)

- 3,072 Students generate 24,936.32 weighted units x \$40.66 = \$1,013,919.31
- Minimum load factor = \$0
(primarily designed for smaller districts)
- K5 students = 2,233(students) x 1.29 (K5 factor) x \$40.66 = \$117,123.97
- Total = \$ 1,131,043.28

Transportation Funding

- School Bus Reimbursement
 - School Buses Owned by School Districts
 - Replacement system
 - Depreciation basis recalculated annually based on 5 year average and current state price for school buses
 - State price for school buses determined by annual bid process at OSPI
 - In Lieu of Depreciation - Contracting Districts
 - Price determined by state bid process